A NEW SPECIES OF *CEROPEGIA* LINN. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) FROM WESTERN GHATS, MAHARASHTRA

Ceropegia huberi Ans. sp. nov.

Pertinet ad sect. *Buprestis* H. Huber, differt tamen ab aliis omnibus speciebus ejusdem sectionis, floribus minutis; corollae laciniis ovatis et alte cordatis, capitulo circulari plano, tubo autem angulato, lobis minore; corona exteriori cupulari, interiori vero conico-elongata.

Herba perennis volubilis. Tuber 4.5 × 4.0 cm, subglobosum radicibus gracilibus lateralibus et basalibus ornatum. Caulis ramosus, glaber, teres, 2 m longus. Folia opposita, petiolata; petiolis ad 3.5 cm longis, glabris, supra canaliculatis, glandula minuta ad utrumque latus ad basin ornatis; folia inferiora ovato-acuminata, 12.0 × 4.8 cm, superiora vero lanceolata, acuminata, 5.0 × 1.5 cm, lamina subcoriacea, marginibus ciliolatis, nervis lateralibus 3-5-jugis. Flores albi, plures, in cymas laterales subumbellatas dispositi; pedunculis hirsutis, ad 16 cm longis, bracteis minutis, subulatis, 2-3 mm longis; pedicellis pubescentibus, ad 1.7 cm longis. Calyx 5-partitus, ca 3 mm, laciniis 2.5 mm longis. Corolla ad 12 mm longa, recta; tubo 5 mm longo, obtuse angulato, pallide puniceo et tenuiter scabro secundum nervos extus, glabro puniceo-purpureo, et lineis alte purpureis intus, latiore ad centrum, laciniae 7 × 10 mm, alte cordatae, ovatae, latiores quam longae, lateribus articulartibus $\frac{2}{3}$ portione supra, efformantes capitulum circulosum planum, paulo inclinatum, ± 1.7 cm diamtro. Corona biseriata; exterior cupularis, constans 5-lobis, integris, glabris, ± 0.7 mm longa; interior vero constans 5 processibus elongatis conicis, pallide lutea, laciniis ca 2.0 mm longis, emergentibus inter coronae exterioris lacinias, convergentes, dorso dense pilosis, apice obtuso, oppositis antheris eisdemque incumbentibus. Pollinia erecta, minuta, lutea, fere conica. Gynostegium 1.5-2.0 mm longum. Folliculi bini (immaturi), ±6 cm longi, fastigati ad utrimque apicem, glabri. Semina plura, ± 5 × 3 mm, ovata, oblonga, eminenter marginata; coma ± 10 mm longa.

Holotypus (*Ansari* 105001A) et isotypi (*Ansari* 105001 B-L) lecti ad Amba Ghat in dist. Ratnagiri in ditione Maharashtra ad altit. ± 610 m in clivis abruptis die 29 Augusti anni 1967; holotypus positus in *CAL*, isotypus (*Ansari* 105001 B) in *K*; caeteri isotypi positi in diversis herbariis mundi; paratypi (*Ansari* 105033 A-L) lectus eodem loco, et paratypi (*Shevade* s.n. A-C) lectus eodem loco die 7 Augusti anni 1909 positus in *BSI*.

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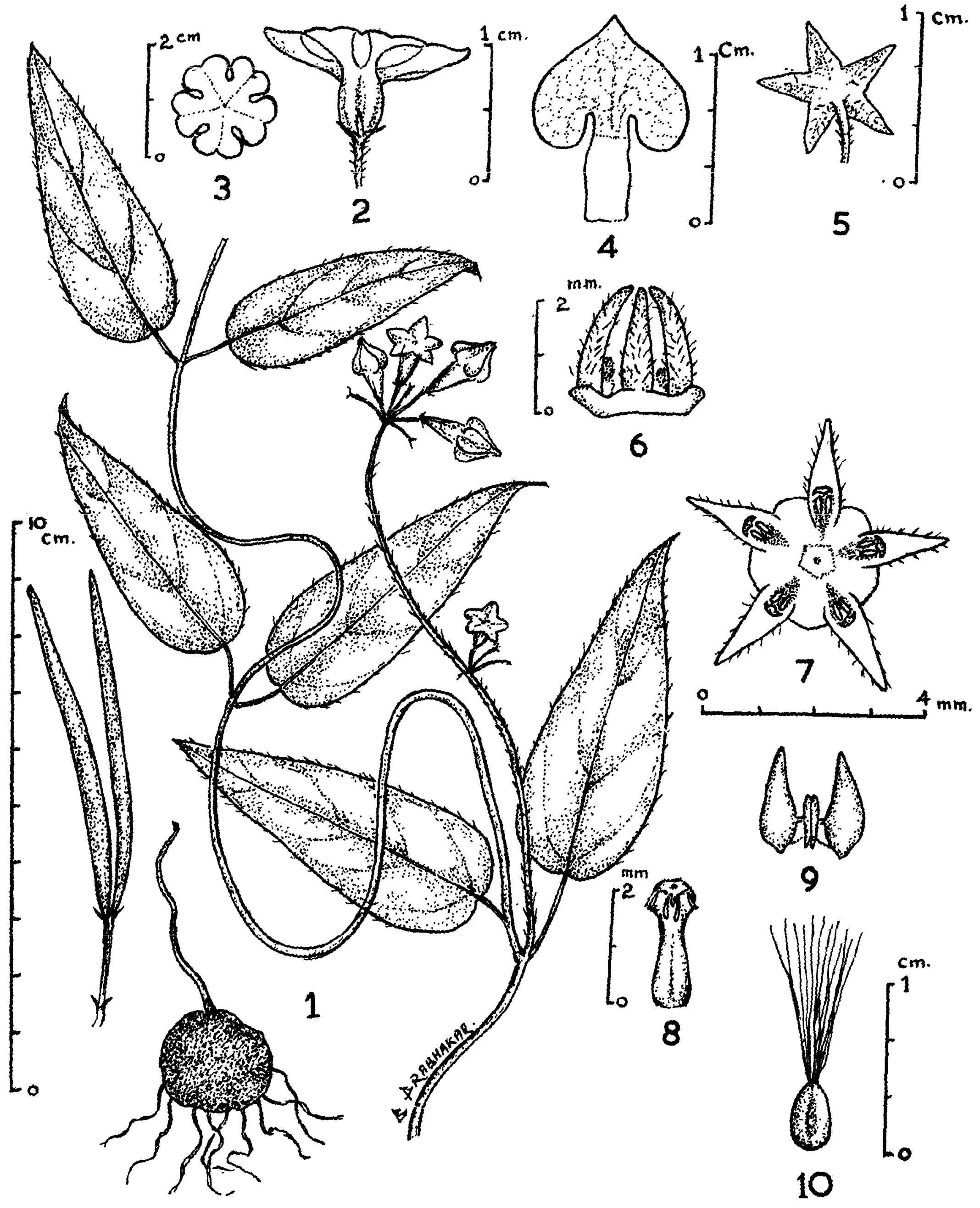
This species belongs to section *Buprestis* H. Huber, but is quite distinct from all the other species of the section in its flowers being quite small; shape of the corolla lobes being ovate and deeply cordate with circular flattened head, tube being angular, smaller than the lobes; outer corona cupular and inner conical elongated.

A perennial twining herb. Tuber upto 4.5 × 4.0 cm, subglobose, giving out slender roots from sides and bottom. Stem branching, glabrous, terete, about 2 m long. Leaves opposite, petiolate; petioles upto 3.5 cm long, glabrous, grooved on the upper side with a minute gland on either side at the base; lower leaves ovate-acuminate, 12.0 × 4.8 cm, upper leaves lanceolate, acuminate, 5.0 × 1.5 cm; lamina subcoriaceous, margin ciliolate, gland dotted; lateral nerves 3-5 pairs. Flowers white, many, in lateral sub-umbellate cymes; peduncles hirsute, upto 16 cm long; bracts small, subulate, 2-3 mm long; pedicels pubescent, upto 1.7 cm long. Calyx 5-partite, about 3 mm long, lobes 2.5 mm long. Corolla upto 12 mm long, straight; tube 5 mm long, obtusely angled, pale pinkish and minutely scabrid along the nerves outside, glabrous, pinkish purple with dark purple longitudinal lines inside, broader in the centre; lobes 7 × 10 mm, ovate, deeply cordate, broader than long, the sides jointed in the upper $\frac{2}{3}$ part forming a circular flattened, slightly inclined, head, ± 1.7 cm in diameter. Corona biseriate; outer corona cupular, 5-lobed, entire, glabrous, ± 0.7 mm long; inner of 5 elongated conical creamy yellow processes, lobes about 2 mm long, arising in between outer corona lobes, densely hairy on the dorsal side only, convergent, apices obtuse, opposite and incumbent on the anthers. Pollen-masses erect, minute, yellow, almost conical in shape. Gynostegium 1.5-2.0 mm long. Follicles in pairs (immature) ± 6 cm long, tapering at both ends, glabrous. Seeds many, ± 5 × 3 mm, ovate, oblong, prominently margined; coma ± 10 mm long.

Flowers: August-September. *Fruits*: September-October.

Vern. name: *Kharpudi*.

The holotype (*Ansari* 105001A) of this species and the isotypes (*Ansari* 105001 B-L) were collected along Amba Ghat in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra State at an altitude of ± 610 m on preciptous rocky slopes on 29th August, 1967. The holotype is deposited in *CAL*; the isotype (*Ansari* 105001 B) is deposited



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Figs. 1-10 : 1. Whole plant (with tuber & follicle). 2. A flower (oblique view). 3. Floral head (top view). 4. A corolla lobe and a part of the tube below. 5. Dorsal view of the calyx with pedicel. 6. Lateral view of the entire corona. 7. Inner view of the dissected corona. 8. Gynostegium. 9. Pollinia with corpusculum. 10. A seed with coma.

in *K*; and the rest of the isotypes are deposited in different herbaria. The paratypes (*Ansari* 105033 A-L) collected from the same locality on the same date on gravelly rocky slopes and paratypes (*Shevade* s.n. A-C) collected from the same locality on 7th August, 1909 are deposited in *BSI*.

During the course of studies on the *Ceropegia* of Western India, 3 unidentified sheets, collected by S. V. Shevade, from Cooke's collection were found to be interesting. Since the specimens were scanty, the material was collected again by the author from the same locality after a lapse of nearly 60 years. After a thorough study by the author, the material was sent to Dr. H. Huber at Wurzburg (West Germany) for his critical examination and comments. He comments "This species might be included into section *Buprestis* Huber (*Mém. Soc. Broter.*, 12: 66, 1957) but occupies a somewhat isolated position. In some respect, it is unique among all Indian species of the genus because of her reduced corolla tube, copying the shape of various African species . . . and feel sure that it is quite a distinct species of eminent interest as it is not identical with any species known to me upto now."

A very elegant and fascinating species growing on rocky crevices and gravelly slopes of hill among grasses. It can be easily distinguished from the rest of the species by its external morphological characters such as angular, reduced corolla tube having a broad circular flattened, slightly inclined, head over it.

The author feels pleasure in dedicating this species to Dr. Herbert Huber of Botanical Institute and Botanical Garden, Wurzburg University, Wurzburg (West Germany) in appreciation of his monumental work on the genus *Ceropegia* Linn.

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A NEW NAME FOR A BORNEAN PLANT

R. Wight (1845) described and figured (1852) a South Indian species of Araliaceae, *Hedera racemosa* Wight by name. In the subsequent years new combinations like *Agalma racemosum* (Wight) Seem. (1868) and *Heptapleurum racemosum* (Wight) Bedd. (1871) were published. Clarke (1879) accepted *H. racemosum* (Wight) Bedd. and kept *Agalma racemosum* (Wt.) Seem. synonymous to it. Harms (1894) treated the genus *Heptapleurum* Gaertn. as synonymous with *Schefflera* Forst. and combined it as *S. racemosa* (Wt.) Harms which is accepted by modern taxonomists to be valid name for Indian plant. Merrill (1918) while working with the Bornean specimens, represented in Singapore Herbarium, described a new species *S. racemosa* Merr. —a name preoccupied by *S. racemosa* (Wight) Harms growing wild in South India and Ceylon. Hence in persuance of Art. 64 of the Code (ed. 1966) Merrill's name for the Bornean plant becomes later homonym and it should be rejected. Since no other validly published legitimate epithet is available for this Bornean plant, the author proposes a new name *S. hexaphylla* R. N. Ban. for the Bornean plant.

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